

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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INFO PANCANAL

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DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

1-PANAMA CITY-EDITORIAL REACTION TO SENATE APPROVAL OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY HAS TENDED TO REFLECT THE INITIAL QUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE SIGNALLED BY THE TORRIJOS-CARTER LETTER OF MARCH 15, THE STATEMENT BY RUMULO ESCOBAR B. AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 16. THERE WERE EXAMPLES, HOWEVER, OF EXPRESSIONS OF RESENTMENT MORE ALONG THE LINES OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS' MIAMI STATEMENT. (SEE EARLIER MARCH 20 MEDIA REACTION). MOST COMMENTARY WAS PREFACED BY A QUOTE FROM THE TORRIJOS-CARTER LETTER OF MARCH 15 TO THE EFFECT THAT: "ANY RESERVATION THAT STRAINS THE NATIONAL DIGNITY OR TWISTS OR CHANGES THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TREATY OR IS INTENDED TO IMPEDE PANAMA'S EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS TERRITORY AND THE DELIVERY OF THE CANAL AND THE MILITARY WITHDRAWAL BY DECEMBER 31, 1999 WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE FOR PANAMA."

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2-AFTER REVIEWING THE TORRIJOS-CARTER LETTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE, LA REPUBLICA CONCLUDES: "A PEOPLE SUCH AS THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, WHICH HAS TAKEN THE NEGOTIATING ROUTE TO A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THE CANAL PROBLEM, CAN BE EXPECTED TO WAIT A FEW MORE DAYS WITHOUT ALLOWING ITSELF TO BE SWAYED BY CHALLENGES AND PROVOCATIONS...SERENITY AND REFLECTION IS THE MOST

ADVISABLE STANCE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT."

3-THE MARCH 18 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO INSISTS THAT THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY "DOES NOT CONTAIN, WILL NOT CONTAIN, CANNOT CONTAIN A WRITTEN CLAUSE...AMENDMENT OR RESERVATION UNDER WHICH PANAMA WOULD DELEGATE IN ANY WAY THE RIGHT OVER ITS SEAS AND WATERS AND ITS SKIES GIVEN TO IT BY THAT SOMETHING CALLED GOD. AND SINCE WE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THAT HUMILIATING CONDITION EITHER TODAY OR EVER, WE FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES, RESPECTFUL OF THE SAME, WOULD NOT DARE EITHER TO PROPOSE TO US A MODIFICATION OF THE PACTS AGREED ON IN 1977..."

4-LUIS RESTREPO REFERS IN HIS VOX POPULI COLUMN IN MATUTINO OF MARCH 18 TO THE "WEEKS BEFORE THE THURSDAY VOTE WHICH WERE DEPRESSING FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE IN THAT DAMAGING WORDS WERE HURLED IN THE DEBATE AGAINST THE NATION, ITS LEADERS AND ITS PEOPLE...ITS NOT THAT WE PANAMANIANS EXPECTED GENEROSITY AND JUSTICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND SENATE OF THE U.S., SINCE HISTORY INDICATES THAT NEITHER THAT GOVERNMENT NOR ITS SENATORS ARE GENEROUS AND GIVE NOTHING WITHOUT FIRST MAKING SURE OF THE PRACTICAL GAIN FOR THE NORTHERN NATION'S POLITICAL SYSTEM OF WORLD DOMINATION... THE AMENDMENTS, THE ADDENDA, RESERVATION AND UNDERSTANDINGS TEND TO ESTABLISH, BY MEANS OF A UNILATERAL INTERPRETATION, FUTURE RIGHTS WHICH IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD ARE IN NO WAY BINDING ON PANAMA."

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5-THE MOST ANGRY REACTION APPEARED IN THE "BITACORA DE LA REDACCION" COLUMN IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO OF MARCH 20. "WE ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE, HOSPITABLE AND GIVEN TO CELEBRATIONS WHICH GIVE REIN TO OUR JOYS, BUT AS A PEACEFUL PEOPLE WE ARE ALSO JEALOUS OF A SERIES OF FUNDAMENTAL BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH ARE INHERENT TO OUR CONDITION OF A FREE PEOPLE AND A SOVEREIGN NATION."

6-THE COLUMNIST FOLLOWS WITH SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS INTENDED TO PROVE THAT THE PANAMANIAN IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH, AND CONCLUDES: "WE ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE, HOSPITABLE AND GIVEN TO CELEBRATIONS WHICH GIVE REIN TO OUR JOYS AND ALSO TO OUR SADNESS, WE REPEAT. BUT WITHIN OURSELVES WE CARRY BAYANO, URRACA, VICTORIANO, AND WE KNOW WHAT WAS A WAR OF THE THOUSAND DAYS, AND ABOVE ALL, WHAT WAS THE HEROIC EVENT OF JANUARY 1964. WE HAVE MATURED AND LEARNED THE SORROWFUL LESSONS AND WE KNOW NOW THAT WE WON'T COMMIT THE SAME ERRORS AGAIN. THE HUMILIATIONS WILL BE ANSWERED IN DUE TIME; WE WON'T FALL ERROR TO EITHER HASTE OR PROCRASTINATION." ITEM

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780347/aaaabnqu.tel
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